

INFORMATION SHEET

THE FULBRIGHT VISITING STUDENT (FVS)

Prepared by:
American Embassy
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

What is this program?

This is a program for graduating 4th-year university students, scholars and professionals to spend up to two years in a study program, research program, or professional development program in the United States. This program is designed primarily to strengthen African universities through higher degree training for faculty members. A secondary purpose is to strengthen other educational, cultural, and professional institutions (such as museums, libraries, independent research institutes, and ministries of education, planning, or science and technology). Awards are available for the following types of programs: (1) up to two years in a study program at a university in the U.S. for a Masters (MA) degree or a doctorate (PH.D) degree; (2) up to one year of independent research at a U.S. university under the guidance of an American professor; or (3) up to one year of professional development in the U.S. in professional fields (such as medicine or law) or creative fields (such as fine arts, the performing arts, music, and literature). Funding is provided by the Government of the United States of America through the U.S. Department of State and varies depending on the program.

What kinds of people are eligible to apply?

Any person who is currently affiliated with and who is committed to continue working either at an **academic institution of higher education**, or at a **public or private educational, cultural, or professional institution** in their home country upon completion of their program.

What are the minimum requirements?

Only persons who meet the following minimum requirements can apply through the American Embassy in Ouagadougou:

- Citizens or permanent residents of Burkina Faso who are qualified to hold a valid passport issued by Burkina Faso;
- Persons who have or will have by **July 2020** a university degree awarded after at least four years of full-time study that is sufficient to qualify the person to be admitted to a graduate study program at a university in the U.S.;
- Persons who have the endorsement of their home institution; and

- Persons who are fluent in both written and spoken English.

Who are the most competitive applicants?

Anyone meeting the minimum requirements may apply. However, people who have the following characteristics are the most competitive applicants and therefore the ones most likely to be selected:

- Persons who are complying with Burkina Faso Development Goals
- 4th-year university students who graduated or who will graduate before the **July 2020** from an institution of higher education in Burkina Faso;
- Persons who can score at 575 at the TOEFL test
- Persons who wish to pursue a Masters (MA) degree or a PH.D degree in order to return to Burkina Faso to teach at an educational, cultural, or professional institution;
- Persons who have outstanding academic records, references, and academic preparation in their fields;
- For candidates for professional development (including artists, musicians, and authors), persons who have extraordinary skills and talent; and
- Persons who have not previously studied in the U.S.

Applications from women and graduating 4th-year students are encouraged.

What kinds of people are not eligible?

The following are examples of persons who are **not** eligible for this program:

- Persons who have already received a bachelor's or master's degree in the U.S.;
- Persons who have participated in a Fulbright program within the past three years;
- Persons who cannot score at least 575 on the Test Of English as a Foreign Language
- Persons who cannot score at least 1000 on the combined verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE test (for study programs other than business and law); and
- Persons who cannot score at least 550 on the GMAT test (for study programs in business).

If I am eligible and meet the minimum requirements, how do I apply?

- You must complete a package of application materials. **Application is available on the U.S. embassy web site <https://bf.usembassy.gov/> from December 01 2019, to January 31, 2020.**
- **Application forms must be completed and returned to the American Embassy, Service CAC by January 31, 2020.**

How does the competition work?

- In **February-March 2020**, candidates selected by the American Embassy will take the TELP test and will be interviewed. After the interviews, selected candidates to continue the competition will register for TOEFL that will be taken in Ouagadougou in **April or May 2020** and GRE in **October 2020**. The finalists must also fill out the online application and provide additional application materials (letters of reference, degrees and academic transcripts (in French and English) **to the American Embassy by July 31, 2020**.
- **Finalists from Burkina Faso then compete against applicants from other sub-Saharan African countries, and the winners will be announced in late-2020 or early 2021**

Please do not call to find out if you have been selected to be interviewed. If you have been selected, we will contact you by telephone or e-mail to schedule your interview. If you are not contacted by end of March 2020 that means that you were not selected to participate in the competition.

What if I am not a citizen or permanent resident of Burkina Faso?

If you are not a citizen or permanent resident of Burkina Faso you cannot apply for this program through the U.S. Embassy in Ouagadougou. You should contact the Public Diplomacy Section in the U.S. Embassy in your home country to find out whether your country participates in this program, and, if so, how to apply.

When will I go to the United States if I am selected?

The current competition is for programs starting in the fall of 2021

If I am selected can my spouse or children come with me to the U.S.?

No. Grantee may request permission for his or her dependents to visit him/her for a short period of time after arrival in the U.S. if he/she can show proof of adequate personal funds to cover the living expenses of the dependents including the cost of health insurance for them. Request template can be asked to Post. Dependent will not get J2 dependent visa.

How do I get more information?

Application form is on our web site: <https://bf.usembassy.gov/>

Public information sessions: every Wednesday from **16:30 to 18:30**, beginning Wednesday, **December 4, 2019** and continuing through **January 29, 2020** at the **American Embassy Ouaga 2000**. (Cell phones & computers not allowed.) Please go to: <https://forms.gle/WVnP28NSFkHVAa3x9> **register to be able to participate to the information sessions.** **PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY TO LEAVE TIME FOR SECURITY CHECKS**